

**ABSTRACT**

A circuit and method for controlling the speed of a universal motor driven by an AC source is disclosed. The method includes the steps of measuring a value of a temporal property of a current through the motor and determining a speed of rotation of the universal motor using the temporal property. The method for controlling the speed of the universal motor further includes comparing the determined speed of rotation with a desired speed of rotation and adjusting the current through the motor so that the speed of the motor approaches the desired speed of rotation.